

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SCCT-01 AF-04 NIC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-05 IO-10 /084 W  
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P R 051651Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8527

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 16918

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC

SUBJECT: EEC: EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE; PLO PARTICIPATION

REF: ROME 16843

SUMMARY: CONFIRMING REFTEL, FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES REPORT THAT NOVEMBER 3 PARIS MEETING OF EC COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE CAME TO NEAR TOTAL IMPASSE. WHEN, HOW, OR EVEN IF DIALOGUE WILL NOW BE LAUNCHED REMAINS TO BE DETERMINED. END SUMMARY.

1. AT NOVEMBER 3 MEETING, FRANCE HELD THAT NO DIALOGUE POSSIBLE  
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UNLESS NINE SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY, SOME LEEWAY, IN DEALING WITH

PLO QUESTION. FRENCH SUGGESTED THAT POSSIBLE MODALITIES AT LEAST BE DISCUSSED WITH ARAB LEAGUE.

2. NETHERLANDS, DENMARK, UK AND FRG, ON OTHER HAND, WERE NEGATIVE, ADVOCATING THAT NINE NEITHER REJECT NOR ACCEPT PLO PARTICIPATION AT THIS TIME. FRG, NETHERLANDS AND UK OBVIOUSLY SENSITIVE TO DOMESTIC CRITICISM RE THEIR EARLIER VOTES RE PLO IN UN. DANES REPORTEDLY FELT THAT ENOUGH ARAB STATES WERE SUFFICIENTLY LUKEWARM IN SUPPORT OF PLO IN DIALOGUE EVENTUALLY TO BRING ARABS INTO DIALOGUE.

3. BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG AND IRELAND ADOPTED MIDDLE QUOTE MORE OPEN UNQUOTE POSITION. BELIEVING THAT ARAB PRICE FOR PARTICIPATION MORE LIKELY TO GO UP THAN DOWN, FELT MODALITIES OF PLO ROLE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH LEAGUE WITH EUROPEAN SIDE EXERTING MAXIMUM EFFORTS TO HOLD PLO WITHIN STRICTLY PRESCRIBED LIMITS.

4. ITALY, PER OUR SOURCES, LIMITED ITS PARTICIPATION TO SAYING THAT DELAY IN DECISION WILL PREJUDICE EVENTUAL SUCCESS OF DIALOGUE AND THAT MATTER NEEDED BE DISCUSSED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL SINCE IT WAS THE MINISTERS WHO HAD ORIGINALLY DECIDED TO DEFER A DECISION (SEE BELOW).

5. WHILE THERE WAS APPARENTLY NO DISPOSITION TO PUT QUESTION ON AGENDA FOR PARIS SUMMIT, VIEWS VARIED ON HOW AND WHEN QUESTION SHOULD NEXT BE ADDRESSED. ITALY SUGGESTED EARLY MEETING OF MINISTERS, PERHAPS IN JANUARY, WHILE FRG AND UK WERE IN NO HURRY, FEELING THAT NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MINISTERIAL MEETING (FEBRUARY) WAS SOON ENOUGH. MEETING THEREFORE BROKE UP WITH PARTICIPANTS REPORTING TO THEIR PRINCIPALS, NATURE AND TIMING OF NEXT STEPS TO BE DECIDED FOLLOWING FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AMONG NINE.

6. WHILE THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT AT MEETING TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE MODALITIES OF PLO PARTICIPATION, AT LEAST SOME POSSIBILITIES WERE REVIEWED. THESE INCLUDED MAKING PLO OBSERVER AT GENERAL COMMITTEE BUT NOT WORKING GROUPS, IN WORKING GROUPS BUT NOT ON GENERAL COMMITTEE, BRINGING PLO IN UNDER SOME SORT OF ARAB LEAGUE QUOTE UMBRELLA UNQUOTE, OR NEGOTIATING A CONFIDENTIAL

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QUOTE STRICTLY NON-POLITICAL UNQUOTE ROLE FOR PLO AS PRICE OF ADMISSION. NONE OF THESE FOUND GENERAL SUPPORT.

7. FONMIN OFFICERS SUMMARIZED CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR PAST MONTH AS FOLLOWS:

NOVEMBER 5. RIAD, SEC GEN OF ARAB LEAGUE INFORMED FRENCH (IN ROLE OF EC PRESIDENCY) THAT LEAGUE EXPECTED QUOTE

PALESTINIANS UNQUOTE TO PARTICIPATE IN DIALOGUE AS OBSERVERS IN GENERAL COMMITTEE ONLY. RIAD RATIONALE WAS THAT PALESTINIANS HAD LONG BEEN ARAB LEAGUE OBSERVERS AND SHOULD MAINTAIN THAT ROLE IN DIALOGUE.

NOVEMBER 7. NINE REPLIED THAT RIAD REQUEST WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION WITHOUT INDICATION OF WHAT OR WHEN ANSWER WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. IT APPEARS RIAD REPLY TO THAT WAS IN EFFECT, NO TICKET, NO LAUNDRY, EITHER PLO PARTICIPATES OR THERE WILL BE NO NOVEMBER 26 MEETING.

NOVEMBER 18. NINE MINISTERS, HAVING THEN-CURRENT UNGA DEBATE IN MIND, TOLD LEAGUE THROUGH RIAD, THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPLY RESPONSE PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 26 MEETING, WHICH THEY HOPED WOULD GO FORWARD AS SCHEDULED. RIAD RESPONDED THAT ARAB PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (11 ARAB STATES AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL) HAD RECENTLY DECIDED THAT PALESTINIANS, I. E., THE PLO SHOULD NOT ONLY PARTICIPATE BUT ALSO BE INVOLVED IN WORKING GROUPS. SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND WITHOUT APPARENT LEAGUE MANDATE, RIAD SUGGESTED MEETING OF RESTRICTED GROUP FROM BOTH SIDES WHICH WOULD LAUNCH WORKING GROUPS AND DISCUSS MODALITIES OF A PLO ROLE. THAT SUGGESTION MIGHT HAVE BEEN A WINNER HAD NOT RIAD MADE IT CONCURRENTLY CLEAR THAT OUTCOME OF MODALITIES DISCUSSION HAD TO BE PRO-PLO DECISION FROM EUROPEAN SIDE. VOLPE

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